



The Battle of Fallen Timbers

N E W S L E T T E R



February, 2004

*Communicating News of the
Fallen Timbers Battlefield National Historic Site*

Vol. 3, No.1

Public Comments Sought On Plans

After two years of planning, including public meetings at key steps in the process, a preferred alternative for the Battle of Fallen Timbers and Fort Miamis National Historic Site is ready to be presented to the public. Comments on the alternative will be accepted during a 60-day comment period.

In August 2002, public meetings were held at the Maumee branch library to present four alternatives. Comments received during the comment period were considered as the Fallen Timbers Advisory Committee prepared a preferred alternative.

Fallen Timbers is an Affiliated Unit of the National Park Service owned and managed by Metroparks of the Toledo Area. The historic site consists of three units: the Fallen Timbers Battlefield at the southwest corner of US 23 and US 24; the Fallen Timbers Monument, an Ohio Historical Society site on US 24 managed by Metroparks, and Fort Miamis, a Maumee city park.

The General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared to guide the development and management of the park for the next 15 to 20 years and provide a foundation to conduct programs and set priorities.

A copy of the draft plan will be available for public review for 60 days,

mid February through mid April. All comments will be analyzed and the document will be revised as needed to respond to substantive comments, after which the final document will be available for an additional 30-day review period. Finally, a record of decisions will be issued by the regional director of the Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service to document which alternative has been selected as the general management plan.

Where To See the Plan

Copies of the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement will be available at Side Cut Metropark, at Metroparks administrative offices located at Wildwood Preserve, Maumee City Hall and all branches of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library. A copy will also be available for viewing and downloading on the Internet at www.FallenTimbersBattlefield.com.

To have a copy mailed to you, contact Scott Carpenter, Metroparks communications manager, at 419-535-3050 or scott.carpenter@metrparkstoledo.com

How To Comment

Comments on this plan will be accepted for 60 days from availability and should be sent to the address below. Internet comments may be submitted as a text file avoiding the use of special characters or any form of encryption.

Include your name and return address in your e-mail and, if possible, request a return receipt when sending your message.

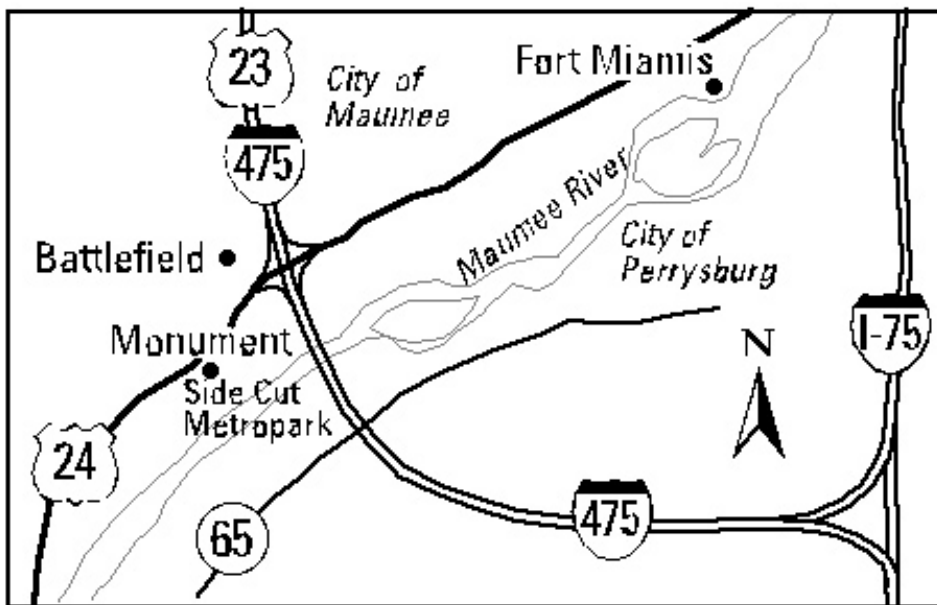
Public Meeting

An open house will be held March 10 from 3 to 8 p.m. with presentations at 5 and 7 p.m. at the Maumee Branch Library, 501 River Road.

For more information, or to comment on the plan, contact:

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About Fallen Timbers

The Battle of Fallen Timbers played an important role in the history of the United States and the opening of the northwest frontier. It was the culminating event that demonstrated the tenacity of the American people in their quest for western expansion and the struggle for dominance in the Old Northwest Territory. The events resulted in the dispossession of American Indian tribes and a loss of colonial territory for the British military and settlers.

The Fallen Timbers Battlefield and Fort Miamis National Historic Site is made up of three separate sites:

- The Fallen Timbers Battlefield is the site of a 1794 battle between the United States military and a confederacy of American Indians backed by the British. The area consists of 187 acres of open field with a woods near the center. The property is bounded on the east by Interstate 475, on the south by US Highway 24, on the west by a proposed retail/commercial development, and on the north by additional commercial property. A railroad spur cuts through the northwest corner of the battlefield.
- The Fallen Timbers State Monument, erected in 1929 to commemorate the battle, is a 9-acre site approximately 0.25 mile south of the battlefield. It is owned by the Ohio Historical Society and

managed by Metroparks, and it is listed as a National Historic Landmark. The property is a fairly level site that falls off steeply on the southern edge to the Maumee River floodplain. The property contains a set of monuments to the battle.

- Fort Miamis was a British fort used during the 1794 campaign and again in the War of 1812. The site of the fort is a Maumee city park in a residential area approximately 5 miles east of the battlefield and memorial. The south side of the fort falls off steeply to the Maumee River. Remnants of the fort's earthworks are still visible. Archeological remains at the fort are still available for future study and interpretation.

Fallen Timbers Online

A new Web site, FallenTimbersBattlefield.com, is online with background for students, teachers and anyone interested in local history. As the official Web address of the national historic site, it will also be the best source for information about the development of the battlefield and related attractions. The Web site was created for Metroparks by WGTE TV 30 with funding from the Ohio Bicentennial Commission.

Bridge Gets Grant

Metroparks has been approved for a \$320,000 grant from the Clean Ohio Trail Fund for the design and construction of a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over US 24 in Maumee. The bridge will connect the Fallen Timbers Memorial and Fallen Timbers Battlefield. It will also be an important link in the regional bikeway system.

The park district previously received a \$452,000 federal grant for the bridge, while fundraisers, including the 2003 Diamond Jubilee, raised additional money for the project. The 320-foot-long, 10-foot-wide bridge is expected to cost \$1.2 million. It will provide a connection between the Wabash Cannonball Trail and River Road.

Our Purpose

The purposes of the Fallen Timbers Battlefield and Fort Miamis National Historic Site, according to its legislation, are to:

- ◆ Recognize and preserve the 185-acre Fallen Timbers Battlefield site;
- ◆ Recognize and preserve the Fort Miamis Site;
- ◆ Formalize the linkage of the Fallen Timbers Battlefield and Monument to Fort Miamis;
- ◆ Preserve and interpret United States military history and Native American culture during the period from 1794 through 1813.

The historic site was established by Congress on December 9, 1999. The site is an Affiliated Unit of the National Park Service, owned and operated by Metroparks of the Toledo Area.

Preferred Alternative Protects Cultural Resources

The preferred alternative would preserve the existing properties with an emphasis on protecting cultural resources and interpreting historic events where they occurred. Visitor experiences would focus on learning about the sites and most interpretation would take place at the edges of the historic resources. Vegetation at the battlefield site would be allowed to revert to species typical of 1794. Links would be established among the three alternatives.

The cost of the project would be approximately \$3.2 million.

The environmental impacts under the preferred alternative would generally be beneficial as a result of protecting cultural resources, prohibiting inappropriate recreational activities and reestablishing natural conditions at the battlefield more typical of the historic period. There would be no impairment of cultural resources or park values.

Short-term, adverse impacts to soils, vegetation and water quality would occur during construction projects at each site, but long-term impacts would be beneficial. There would be no impairment of natural resources or park values.

Providing access to the battlefield and onsite interpretation would provide visitors increased opportunities to learn about significant events associated with the site and preserving the historic remnants at Fort Miamis would enhance the visitor experience at the site. Linking other sites in the region would give visitors more opportunities to learn about regional history. Preserving viewsheds at the monument and Fort Miamis would help protect the historic scene.

Involving various groups in park-related programs would foster a greater sense of stewardship, more community involvement and improved interpretive programs. Over the long term the impact of partnerships with other governmental agencies and private organizations would provide multiple public benefits.

Constructing visitor facilities at the battlefield, and increasing the number and quality of interpretive programs at all units of the national historic site, could result in minor to moderate, beneficial, long-term impacts on the local economy.

Under the preferred alternative, cultural resources would be preserved and various types of interpretive programs would be developed to encourage visitors to learn about the importance of the park units and the historic events. A new visitor center would be constructed near the battlefield, and interpretive programs would cover all three units as well as the American Indian, British, and American perspectives of the time period.

Partnerships would be pursued with a wide variety of agencies and organizations to protect viewsheds outside the park and to share programming, information and materials.

The complete Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement describes a preferred alternative and three other alternatives for the management and public use of Fallen Timbers Battlefield and Fort Miamis National Historic Site.



A new historical marker was unveiled this summer at the Fallen Timbers Monument as part of the Ohio Bicentennial Celebration.

Plan Progress

STEP 1

- ◆ Gather information
- ◆ Determine significance and goals
- ◆ Public meeting # 1 (March 12, 2002)

STEP 2

- ◆ Draft alternatives to achieving goals, addressing issues, and solving problems
- ◆ Public meeting # 2 (Summer 2002)

►STEP 3

- ◆ Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for public review
- ◆ Public meeting #3 (March 10)

STEP 4

- ◆ Develop Final GMP/EIS

STEP 5

- ◆ Distribute final plan

Day of Healing

(right) The American Indian Intertribal Association sponsored its annual Day of Healing this summer at Side Cut Metropark.

Winter History Series

Toledo historian Fred Folger is hosting a winter history series at Wildwood Preserve.

Programs will be held Fridays, March 5 and 19 at 1 p.m. at Metroparks Hall. Topics will include stories about the region's fascinating history.

Metroparks Programs

For detailed listings of nature, history and cultural programs, see Metroparks Program Guide, available at all Metroparks, or go to MetroparksToledo.com.



Published By Metroparks of the Toledo Area on Behalf of the Fallen Timbers Advisory Commission

- ◆ American Indian Intertribal Association
- ◆ City of Maumee
- ◆ Fallen Timbers Battlefield Preservation Commission
- ◆ Heidelberg College
- ◆ Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor
- ◆ Lucas County/Maumee Valley Historical Society
- ◆ National Park Service
- ◆ Metroparks of the Toledo Area

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